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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 289 AN ACT CONCERNING DUTIES OF BUILDING INSPECTORS

Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing
March 4, 2014

Chairs Hartley and Dargan, Ranking Members Guglielmo and Giegler and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 289, AN ACT CONCERNING DUTIES OF BUILDING INSPECTORS. Specifically, I offer testimony in support of improving public safety by requiring inspections to be carried out by licensed inspectors.

While most building officials and assistant building officials are qualified to perform mechanical inspections, we should require that inspections are always conducted by licensed inspectors holding the appropriate license for those inspections. These qualifications exist to ensure that the highest level of public safety is maintained and should be mandated accordingly.

Should the Public Safety and Security Committee choose to move this bill forward, I would ask that the committee consider adding some exceptions. It is reasonable to believe that public safety is not compromised by a building official's acceptance of an inspection report from a fire marshal. Also, according to the CT State Building Code, the Building Official is "...authorized to accept reports of approved inspection agencies..." An example of this is the acceptance of a report from inspectors that have certifications from organizations such as the American Concrete Institute, the American Welding Society, etc. Lastly, modular homes manufactured outside of Connecticut are subject to inspection by third party inspection companies.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer testimony. I respectfully request that you give consideration to moving this bill forward after incorporating these changes.